for joint monitoring of the performance of EOUs by the jurisdictional Development Commissioners and Customs/Central Excise Authorities on six-monthly basis. Besides, the EOUs are subject to regular/special audits and checks by the Customs/Central Excise Authorities., Any frauds by EOUs result in fiscal penalties and even suspension/cancellation of the EOU status under the provisions of Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 besides penal action under the provisions of the Central Excise & Customs Acts.

(b) to (e) Applications for setting up of 100 per cent EOU are regularly considered by the unit approval committee and Board of Approval, as the case may be.

**Regional Offices of SEZ Boards of Approvals**

1666. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Special Economic Zones Board of Approvals is opening four regional offices all over the country.

(b) if so, the selected locations of the proposed regional offices of the SEZ Board of Approvals;

(c) the level of officers who would man these regional offices;

(d) the funding for these four regional offices in 2007-08; and

(e) the reasons for setting up of such regional SEZ offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) There is. no such proposal.

(b) to (e), Do no arise.

**Production and export of spices**

1667. DR. MAM RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the output and export of spices in the country is stagnating;

(b) if so, whether the Standing Committee on Commerce has